

Appln. No. 09/981,483
Amdt. dated March 19, 2004
Reply to Office action dated Jan. 16, 2004

PATENT
Customer No. 22,878
Attorney Docket No. 10003016
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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [027], which begins at page 8, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Figure 2, which illustrates a cut-away view of a portable medical analyzer 200, shows an analytical detector module 130 comprising a slot for cartridge 10, wherein sampling module 110 and assay sensor module 120 are contained. Cartridge 10 is disposable and houses lancet 16. The term "disposable" refers to a fungible feature of the portable medical analyzer, such as a lancet, assay sensor, or cartridge which can be used for one lancing cycle or one analysis and is then discarded. Lancet 16 connects to driver 40 that contains the driving mechanism for advancing and retracting the lancet. Lancet 16 is initially retracted and upon retraction embedded within the cartridge 10. The term "embedded" refers to the lancet being completely shielded by the cartridge when it is not lancing. --